



U.S. Army

**Edgewood Chemical Biological Center**

Public Affairs Office

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## News Release

### Edgewood CB Center Partnering with U.S. EPA on Homeland Security Research and Development

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**Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.** – The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command to establish a framework for collaborative research and development efforts between the EPA's Office of Research and Development (ORD) and SBCCOM on projects relating to homeland security. EPA Administrator Christie Whitman and Edgewood Chemical Biological Center (ECBC) Technical Director Jim Zarzycki signed the MOU. ECBC is an organization within SBCCOM.

This agreement is an ideal way to accelerate cooperative efforts in the area of homeland security, according to Zarzycki.

"Our organizations are perfectly matched...both SBCCOM and the EPA have technology to share and learn about, and there are numerous areas where we can collaborate," said Zarzycki. "ECBC has the infrastructure to handle the toxic materials required to conduct this kind of research."

Research and development efforts specifically targeted under this MOU appear in the EPA's Strategic Plan for Homeland Security, released in September 2002, and include building security, water security, and rapid risk assessment. The MOU is intended to expedite research and development of new tools and technologies that can be implemented in support of homeland security efforts by federal, state or local government agencies. The MOU will also serve to maximize resources, minimize duplication of effort and accelerate technology development.

The U.S. EPA is one of ECBC's federal partners. ECBC has numerous agreements with federal agencies to conduct cooperative research and testing activities. Many of these agreements support homeland security goals.

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ECBC is the Army's principal research and development center for chemical and biological defense technology, engineering and services, and is under the auspices of the U.S. Army Soldier and Biological Chemical Command. ECBC has achieved major technological advances for national defense, civilian needs and industrial competitiveness, with a long and distinguished history of providing the Armed Forces with quality systems and outstanding customer service. ECBC is located at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md. For more information about the Edgewood Chemical Biological Center, please visit our Web site at <http://www.sbccom.apgea.army.mil> or call (410) 436-4347.